

Battle Mountain District, Tonopah Field Office

Update

Date: August 26, 2015

MINERALS MANAGEMENT

Corvus Gold Nevada North Bullfrog Exploration Project – The Project is located six miles northwest of Beatty. Preliminary results from exploration indicate favorable values and Corvus Gold Nevada has presented conceptual plans for a Mining PoO. Baseline studies in support of this proposed plan are on-going.

Metallic Goldfield Gemfield Project - Metallic Goldfield has completed the majority of the required baseline studies for the proposed open pit mine about 1.5 miles north of Goldfield. A PoO has been accepted for a plan boundary of 1,918 acres and surface disturbance of 1,098 acres. A public scoping meeting for this Project was conducted on January 10, 2014. Chapters One, Two and Three of the EIS are being drafted. We are currently waiting on the completion of the Ground Water Model to move forward in the EIS process.

Round Mountain Gold Corp., Plan of Operations Amendment - Round Mtn. has proposed a modification to their current Plan of Operations that would include the expansion of the open pit. Baselines for the proposal are currently being conducted.

Kings Valley Minerals LLC — Kings Valley Minerals LLC is proposing to conduct exploration operations for potassium in the Clayton Valley area on approximately 25,440 acres. There will be 12 drill holes. Surface disturbance is estimated to be about 120 acres. The NEPA kick off meeting is scheduled for June 9, 2015

West Kirkland Mining Inc., Three Hills Mine — West Kirkland Mining Inc. is proposing to conduct mining operations two miles west of Tonopah. Estimated surface disturbance is 492 acres. This project is currently in the NEPA process and an Administrative Draft is expected to be submitted to the office sometime near the end of September.

Nevada Sunrise Gold Corp, Golden Arrow Exploration - The proposal is to explore for recoverable gold deposits by drilling reverse circulation and/or core holes, geophysical mapping, and construction of roads and drill sites five miles south of Tonopah within a 1,473 acre plan

boundary. Administrative Draft EA is currently being reviewed by the IDT.

LANDS AND REALTY

Tonopah Solar Energy, LLC Crescent Dunes - The 653 foot tall power tower receiver, mirrors , power generation blocks, and hot and cold storage tanks have been constructed. When completed, the Project will produce 110 megawatts of power. Testing has commenced and it is anticipated that the power plant will be in operation in the summer of 2015. An informational kiosk with picnic tables, and appropriate signage of the project and surrounding public lands, is expected to be constructed in 2015.

Manhattan Road ROW— The office is currently waiting on the SF-299 from the county. We are currently awaiting the completion of the Cultural Report.

Silver Peak Road ROW – The office has issued a ROW to Esmeralda County for the Silver Peak Road from Highway 95 to Silver Peak.

Gold Point—Esmeralda County has shown an interest in the purchase of the town of Gold Point. The sale of the Land is currently under the internal review process.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

The Tonopah Conservation District, in cooperation with Tri-County Weed District, has currently treated over 2,000 acres of noxious weeds throughout the District.

The Southern Nye County Conservation District continues to complete Tamarisk control in support of the Amargosa Toad Habitat Conservation Plan Agreement throughout Oasis Valley and within Beatty town proper. In 2014 approximately 50 acres were controlled.

Beatty Springs—Five springs were approved during 2011 and three of the springs will be under construction by the end of the summer of 2015.

Spring /Stream Fencing— The BLM worked with local permittees and others with water rights around nine spring sources within the Tonopah Field Office that are being heavily impacted by wild horses and burros. This project will protect spring heads while allow water to be available for use of wildlife and livestock. This will help these areas recover and continue to provide water.

DROUGHT RESPONSE

Since 2012, much of Nevada experienced record drought conditions in which limited forage production occurred and water sources began drying up.

In response to the drought, the BMDO prepared a district drought management plan and analyzed it in an EA. The Finding of No Significant Impact, or FONSI was signed in June 2013. The main purpose of the drought plan was to position the BLM to authorize appropriate drought response actions in a timely manner to prevent resource damage or adverse drought related impacts. The plan consists of a broad suite of drought response actions to address and mitigate livestock and wild horse and burro related impacts during drought.

The BMDO has made drought monitoring and implementing appropriate drought response actions a priority since 2012. Priority areas are: Herd Management Areas, Priority Greater Sage Grouse Habitat, Wetland and Riparian Habitats, and Intact Native Plant Communities.

Monitoring indicated limited forage production across much of the BMDO in 2012 and 2013. In 2014 and 2015 there was a small increase to limited spring precipitation. Although this moisture led to more forage production in many areas in comparison to 2012 and 2013, drought impacted rangelands still dominated the majority of the BMDO. Hydrologic and vegetative drought have been present since 2012 in much of the District and monitoring indicated conditions are worsening.

The BMDO has worked extensively with permittees to reach appropriate management actions each year by first seeking voluntary adjustments within the terms and conditions of current grazing permits. In limited instances where no voluntary agreement could be reached, or after drought response triggers were exceeded and voluntary movement or removal of livestock was not possible, the BMDO issued decisions temporarily closing grazing allotment or portions of them, to livestock use. Other decisions were issued that implemented agreements with permittees where grazing use occurred outside of the permit terms and conditions.

In 2014, permittees applied for and were approved for over 150,000 AUMs of voluntary non-use during the grazing year. We appreciate all of the collaboration that has occurred between BLM and livestock permittees and leases to proactively address drought conditions.

In 2015, voluntary non-use was achieved on 73 grazing allotments totaling 165,173 AUMs.

To date, seven drought decisions on the following allotments were issued:

- Battle Mountain Complex
- Shannon Station Allotment
- Diamond Springs Allotment
- Grass Valley, Simpson Park, and Dry Creek Allotment

- Roberts Mountain Allotment
- Argenta Allotment (2 Decisions)

Riparian Monitoring has occurred on:

13 Allotments

43 Drought monitoring sites

17 ·Stream channel Multiple Indicator Monitoring sites

21 Hydro sensors at eight sites

13 Water quality sampling sites, and

29 Water quality samples.

WILD HORSE AND BURRO PROGRAM

The TFO conducted a wild horse gather to remove excess wild horses from the Little Fish Lake Allotment. One hundred and seven horses were gathered and 140 were shipped to the Ridgecrest holding facility. Seven studs were released back into the Reveille Allotment.

The TFO will be conducting wild burro nuisance gather in and around the town of Beatty NV, starting around September 1, 2015. This will be bait and water trap, the planned number to remove will be up to 40 excess wild burros.

RECREATION

Best in the Desert/Vegas to Reno Off Road Race - In what has become an annual event, the District facilitated the longest off road race in the United States in August. Overall, 333 racers from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Mexico, South Africa, Uruguay and the U.S. lined up to take on the grueling 535 mile journey from Beatty to Dayton, Nevada.

Pahrump through Beatty Off Road Race – The TFO and PFO will be working together on a proposed Off Road Race that will be conducted during 2016. The race is proposed to be conducted from Pahrump through Beatty.

Forestry, Fuels, and Fire Programs

Forestry

269 vegetative (fuelwood) permits sold.

874 tons of biomass utilized, and

Four commercial woodcutting areas established.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

314 acres of mechanical treatment on the Eureka Project,

140 acres of mechanical treatment on the Lida Project,

45 acres of prescribed fire on the Manhattan Project,

2,221 acres of biological treatment on the Austin Project,

1,562 acres of seeding treatment on the Diamond Valley Project,

845 acres of chemical treatment on the Battle Mountain Project,

1,245 acres of seeding treatment on the Battle Mountain Project, and

5,000 acres of WUI projects monitored.

Non-Wildland Urban Interface

200 acres of prescribed fire treatment on the Seven Mile Project,

1,000 acres of mechanical treatment on the Sulphur Springs Project, and

2,000 acres of non-WUI projects monitored .

Rehabilitation

466 acres of the 2013 Goat Peak Fire were aerial seeded in January 2014.

We achieved 100% success in initial attack in Fiscal Year 2014.

Last season, the BMDO had 22 fires that burned 63 acres of public land. Of this total, there were five human caused fires for one-half of an acre and 17 lightning fires for 62.5 acres. We assisted other BLM Districts and agencies within NV, ID, CA, OR and WA with suppression help last year.

The TFO has not had any fires in 2015.

Aviation

Our aviation bases stayed busy flying 80,282 gallons of retardant to 28 fires in the BMDO and surrounding areas.

Additionally we managed eight resource flights in support of drought monitoring, wild horse and burro management, and restoration projects for a total of 33 days with flights.